

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club Inc.

Bulletin No. 263

Supplement to the "Tasmanian Naturalist"

August 1991

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club is devoted to the study of all forms of Natural History, and is comprised of both experts and beginners. We cover a wide variety of topics, and we support conservation. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, except January, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania at 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the main entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the Club Contact is Helen Davidson.

Programme

- Thurs. Aug. 1st 7.45p.m.: Members night, Library night and Bargain Sale. Copies of previous Tas Naturalists will be on sale.
- Sat. Aug. 3rd 10 a.m.: "Backyard Beasts" Day. We will visit 2 backyards in the Waterworks/Ridgeway area to discover what fauna may be found in suburban backyards. First stop 60 Waterworks Rd. Bring lunch or we may BBQ at Waterworks if weather permits. A special family day!
- Thurs. Sept. 5th 7.45p.m.: Jerry de Gryse, Landscape Architect, will present a talk titled "Saving the Bush Outback".
- Sat. Sept. 7th 10 a.m.: With Jerry we will walk along the pipeline track viewing successive encroachment of weed species in the urban bushland setting. We will look in detail at a recently disturbed site in Neika and discuss specific problems and strategies concerning its rehabilitation.
- Thurs. Oct. 3th 7.45p.m.: Mike Newman will give us a talk titled "Oyster Catcher Breeding at Mortimer Bay".
- Sat. Oct. 26th 9 a.m.: Mike will lead us on a search for Pied oyster catcher's nests and we will be observing their behaviour so bring binoculars. Note the change in time and date of this outing, this is to ensure we find some nests. We will meet at Lauderdale pub at 9a.m. or museum at 8.30a.m. Bring a lunch.
- Thurs. Nov. 7th 7.45p.m.: Louise Gilfedder will be speaking to us on rare and threatened plant and plant communities from remnant grasslands and grassy woodlands.
- Sat. Nov. 9th 9 a.m.: Louise will led us on this outing to the Midlands visiting several sites with high flora conservation value. We wont be doing much walking but bring warm clothes and lunch.

New Members: A special welcome to our new members Catherine Madden, Helene Bogut, Stephanie Hunter, Juliet Lavers and David Batchelor.

Are you financial? If OS appears on your envelope then your membership fees are outstanding. Please pay Gilbert our treasurer otherwise this will be your last bulletin.

TAS FIELDNAT'S MAMMAL SURVEY GROUP

Report April - May 1991.

April saw us operating close to Hobart on the lower slopes of Mt Wellington near Old Farm Rd. We unsuccessfully deployed our harp trap for bats for the first time - bats tend to be much more active in warmer months. Spotlighting revealed a feral cat and possums, and trapping in wet sclerophyll forest produced only a velvet rat.

In May an overnight excursion to Chauncy Vale was attended by 14 members and resulted in our first Tasmanian Devil record, trapped and released in good condition. No small mammals were recorded although abundant brushtail possums and pademelons were observed under spotlight. A draft pamphlet on mammal tracks and signs of the area was handed over to the Friends of Chauncy Vale Group.

June was another overnight trip, this time to Koonya on Tasman Peninsula. Interesting results were obtained in an area that has much scope for further work.

Two more members now have permits for undertaking survey work and have obtained success in the Cygnet and Neika areas. To enable more autonomy with equipment we are actively seeking grants for the purchase of traps currently on loan.

All TasNats are encouraged to contribute mammal observations, for example roadkill records often reveal distribution data. Barred bandicoot and quoll records have recently been collected in this context.

We will be advertising an Adult Education course on Tasmanian Mammals in the third term of 1991. This will assist in raising funds and creating awareness of our activities.

Future excursions include a Mt Wellington venture in August (17th-18th) and, significantly, a major camp at Lagoon Bay via Dunalley on September 21st & 22nd. This is to an interesting area of coastal and woodland habitat where the landowner is keen to obtain flora and fauna survey results. October (19th-20th) is the Neika area.

Contact Don Hird (344 293) or Andrew Weinart (235 697), or at meetings, for details.